

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
Washington, D. C.

September 2, 1953

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMAL PSB MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2, 1953

Place: Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense

Present: Messrs. Jackson, Smith, Kyes, Cabell, Stassen and Morgan.

Agenda Item 1. U.S. Psychological Strategy Based on Thailand

The revision of PSB D-23, August 28, 1953, after brief amendments, was approved by the Board for submission to the NSC. The expected main features of the financial appendix were discussed. It was agreed that the final draft of the appendix should be submitted to the NSC after clearance with the member agencies without waiting for the next Board meeting.

Agenda Item 2. U.S. Prestige Abroad

I reported the expected timetable of work on this project and the Board agreed to September 16 as the deadline for consideration of the final draft, in order to make possible submission to the NSC on September 17. It was agreed that the CIA estimate would not retain its identity as such or get any other distribution but would merely be included in the PSB report. It was felt that high-level agency representatives should be designated to work with me in preparation of the final draft, especially the recommendations. General Smith named Mr. MacArthur for this purpose. Mr. Kyes said he would ask Mr. Nash to name someone. Mr. Stassen named Mr. Matteson. General Cabell said he would notify me later of the principal CIA representative.

Agenda Item 3. PSB D-40 and PSB D-45

The Board concurred in the State Department proposal for merging the PSB D-40 and D-45 working groups and drafting a revised combined paper.

Agenda Item 4. Implementation of Jackson Report Recommendations

I reported to the Board that a preliminary check with the member agencies indicated probable negative responses only on recommendations Nos. 8, 18, and 37(d). The Board raised no objection concerning the first and third. With regard to No. 18, it was felt that instead of drafting a complete dissent, we should indicate an intention to continue studying the matter and to take whatever constructive action we can.

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Agenda Item 5. Other Business

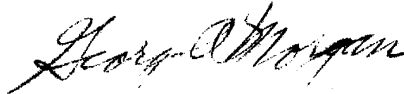
Mr. Jackson broached the problem of Russian and satellite minorities raised in his memorandum to the Board members dated September 1. It was agreed that the Staff should undertake a fresh look at this problem, possibly using the services of the group at MIT which has studied the area intensively, and also the latest interviews of escapees bearing on this subject. It was also suggested that recommendations resulting from this study might be incorporated in the proposed revision of PSB D-40 and D-45.

It was felt that the interviewing of Orbit escapees done by the Harvard group had been very valuable, and I was asked to investigate a report that this work had been discontinued.

The Board further discussed the project for appropriate gestures at Christmas time in Europe outside the Iron Curtain initiated at the last meeting. Mr. Stassen presented a memorandum based on his recent discussions with his European mission chiefs, proposing food gifts to the unemployed. The idea was well received by the Board with the additional suggestion that some word other than "unemployed" be used in public in order to avoid Soviet propaganda exploitation. Mr. Kyes also mentioned a Defense project underway for Christmas gifts from troops stationed abroad to appropriate recipients.

The Board agreed to a proposal from Mr. Kyes that a draft plan developed by the Department of the Army with reference to atrocities suffered by American prisoners of war be referred to a PSB working group.

The Board discussed Ambassador Conant's recommendations with regard to a continuing long-range program to aid the East German people and agreed that such a program is desirable. The Board stipulated, however, that we should not seek to "terminate" the present program and should not make the anticipated change too soon after the elections, lest the connection appear obvious, and that the West German Government should still be asked to sponsor the long-range program even if private German organizations also participate. It was also suggested that at the time when the short-range program is transformed into a long-range one, a public statement might usefully be made, pointing out that the short-range program had compelled the Russians to liberalize their own food distribution in East Germany with a resulting benefit to the people whom we seek to aid.



George A. Morgan
Acting Director.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Supplement to Memorandum of Informal PSB Meeting,
September 2, 1953.

With reference to Agenda Item 1, the Board in amending the PSB D-23 to provide for covert planning and preparations for Phase II "as approved by OCB", approved the following specific steps at this time:

a.

b.

c.

- d. Reorient current PP program so as to direct at countering any lowering of American prestige which has been caused by foreign nations and to create a favorable atmosphere for accomplishment of Phase II operations.

A fifth item with respect to burials for possible stay-behind operations was not approved for the present.

George A. Morgan
Acting Director.

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